

Niagara Falls, NY - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today visited the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's Heart Center to announce \$400,000 in funds for the facility. The funds secured by Rep. Slaughter in the FY08 Labor -Health and Human Services - Education Appropriations bill and will be used for technology upgrades and staffing for cardiac research at the Center for Coronary Disease Prevention and Reversal at the Heart Center of Niagara.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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, 2007

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"This funding will go a long way in upgrading research equipment and staffing to bolster this growing, yet critical component at the Heart Center all while solidifying the Center's reputation in cardiac research on the national stage," said Rep. Slaughter. **"Both of these initiatives represent a long-term investment in the reversal of Western New York's dismal mortality rates from heart attacks."**

"In a time when healthcare costs keep rising, new prevention innovations not only save lives, but also lower the financial cost of treating patients by stopping the disease before it becomes dangerous," Rep. Slaughter continued.

"Rep. Slaughter was one of the earliest supporters of our vision for early detection using non-invasive diagnostic testing as a means of giving patients the opportunity to reverse coronary artery disease. Her faith in us is already paying off in the form of improved patient outcomes," **said Memorial Medical Center President & CEO Joseph A. Ruffolo.** "This grant will enable us to conduct groundbreaking research while providing progressively better and more cost-effective care to coronary disease patients,"

Mr. Ruffolo continued

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The FY08 Labor - Health and Human Services - Education Appropriations bill passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 246-140 on July 19th. This bill now awaits consideration in the Senate.

BACKGROUND:

The Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center noninvasive diagnostic and medical management approach has resulted in a comprehensive center for coronary disease prevention and reversal, and has opened the door to a wealth of research, academic and economic development opportunities with a regional impact. The Center's objective is to provide a model for the highest quality cardiac care achievable in a community hospital, while developing innovative care paths using new, noninvasive technologies that maximize patient safety and reduce healthcare costs.

The Center is partnering with GE Healthcare, the University of Buffalo, Niagara University, and the New York State Center for Bioinformatics and Life Sciences to explore academic research and economic development activities.

Niagara County has the highest incidence of death from heart disease and stroke in the nation. Aided by \$1 million secured by Rep. Slaughter in 2004, The Heart Center opened and integrated with the emergency department in January of last year.

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